

# docklines

SPRING 2009

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MARINAS

## CALENDAR

### **Year-round EcoAdventures**

*Kayaking, canoeing, bird watching, hiking, biking  
Various locations*

305-365-3018

[ecoventures@miamidade.gov](mailto:ecoventures@miamidade.gov)

[www.miamiecoadventures.org](http://www.miamiecoadventures.org)

### **March 7 – 8, 2009**

#### **20th Annual Asian Culture Festival**

*Fruit & Spice Park*

*24801 S.W. 187 Ave., Homestead*

305-247-5727

### **March 20 – 22, 2009**

#### **2nd Annual Miami International Agriculture & Cattle Show**

*Featuring the Homestead Plant Exhibition*

*Ronald Reagan Equestrian Center*

*at Tropical Park*

*7900 S.W. 40 St., Miami*

305-755-7905

### **March 29, 2009**

#### **5th Annual Deering Seafood Festival**

*Deering Estate at Cutler*

*16701 SW 72 Ave., Miami*

305-235-1668

### **May 10, 2009**

#### **Mother's Day Brunch**

*Deering Estate at Cutler*

*16701 SW 72 Ave., Miami*

305-235-1668

### **May 15 – 17**

#### **Redland International Orchid Show**

*Fruit & Spice Park*

*24801 S.W. 187 Ave., Homestead*

305-247-5727

### **June 6, 2009**

#### **Blue Water Fishing Classic**

*Miami-Dade County Marinas*

*For information, call 305-755-7939*

### **June 17, 2009**

#### **Love-in with Mitch Ryder and the Detroit Wheels**

*Celebration of the 60s*

*Greynolds Park*

*17530 West Dixie Highway, North Miami Beach*

305-945-3425

## Exciting Times for Bill Bird Marina at Haulover Park

December 5, 2008, was a day of celebration at Haulover Marina—a groundbreaking for the new dockmaster/park office, a presentation of a check from the Florida Inland Navigation Department by Spencer Crowley for \$1.13 million toward the office, and renaming the marina.

The name change to Bill Bird Marina at Haulover Park was the highlight of the festivities. Bill was Parks Department director from 1977 – 1993. Known as a great visionary, he increased the acreage of county parks, was a champion of conservation and the recipient of numerous prestigious national awards. During his tenure, he knew almost every staff member and made employees feel they truly made a difference. Overwhelmed at seeing old friends and grateful for the renaming of the marina in his honor, he gave quite a memorable speech.

After the groundbreaking, Zurqui Construction did test piles for the dockmaster's office, which will be located north of the old Solo's site and on the south-end of the recreational docks, right on the water for better access. The two-story building will house the offices upstairs and a meeting room, showers and laundry room downstairs. The anticipated completion date is November 2009.

The construction of the north end of the marina is on schedule for a July 2009 opening. The dredging and seawall are almost complete. All pilings, docks, electrical and plumbing equipment are on site and Shoreline Foundation Inc., is moving right along.

Among the guests at the event were Commissioner Sally Heyman, County Manager George Burgess, Assistant County Manager Alex Muñoz, Mayor Howard Berlin of Bal Harbour, Mayor Norman Edelcup of Sunny Isles, and Mayor Kevin Burns of North Miami. Parks Director Jack Kardys was emcee.

A great time was had by all!



## Teaching Kids How to Fish

Homestead Bayfront Park/Herbert Hoover Marina was host to the 12th Annual Youth Fishing Foundation's Kids Fishing Festival/Gold Cup Tournament. Children ages 6 – 16 got a free rod and reel, learned how to put them together, and received a short course on baiting the hook, casting, and catching fish. Over 175 kids and their parents attended and fished from the shore of Homestead Bayfront Park. At the end of the day, everyone was treated to a free lunch with Homestead Park Manager Josiel Morera, who cooked and served over 250 hot dogs and sodas. A jolly Santa arrived after lunch and gave each participant a special holiday present, capping an absolutely perfect day!



# No Mai Tais, but What an Experience!

Crandon Park Marina staff was delighted to welcome the first Job Explorer Program volunteer – Norma Koelig, a Parks personnel technician – who was eager to experience the daily operations of a marine facility. One of the largest in Miami-Dade County, Crandon Park Marina berths 427 vessels. Proudly wearing her marina hat, Norma assisted in the daily routine of checking vessels and documenting the four-times-a-day dock check. She was shown what to look for when conducting these inspections – waterlines, proper docking, lines securing vessels to the docks, etc.



Norma Koelig

Next, Norma donned her life jacket and boarded the utility vessel with marina attendant Oscar Gonzalez to inspect and document the 60 vessels in the mooring. She also assisted with the vessel check in the fenced-in dry storage facility where 130 vessels are stored.

After a short break, Norma was amazed by the hundreds of daily calls from annual patrons and transient visitors who want to visit and dock their boat for a short stay. Some callers even inquired as

to bus routes to and from the marina and where the nearest grocery store is located!

Of special interest to her was the ship-to-shore radio communication between vessels and marina when captains want to reserve a slip or find out what amenities the marina offers.

"I was treated like a queen," says Norma. "The experience was an eye-opener because most people think marina staff just sits around watching the ocean. But they work extremely hard in all types of weather – it was cold in the morning and hot and muggy in the afternoon. But staff was outdoors doing what they need to do. They were amazing!"

Norma said she had hoped to come to the "land of suntan and Mai Tai cocktails." Although she got neither, she gained great understanding not only for the voluminous and critical work marina staff does every day but most of all, she was impressed with the professionalism and outstanding customer service marina staff delivers every day – no matter how big or small the task.

## Don't Become Stranded

What is the #1 reason for becoming disabled in the water? According to Todd Seeds from Towboat US in Homestead Bayfront Marina, it is lack of basic preventative maintenance. Towboat US receives between 1200 and 1500 calls annually from stranded boaters who have broken down as a result of mechanical problems, fuel problems, and dead batteries as a result of trailered boats sitting in the yard and not being used regularly.



A nice day on the water can become dangerous if the weather turns for the worse and you are stranded. Here are a few simple rules to minimize emergencies.

- Charge the batteries the night before your trip
- Start your motor before you leave for the ramp
- Gas up upon your return to prevent condensation building up in an empty tank
- Change the fuel filters and water separators regularly
- Keep your oil reservoirs full

As a boater you might want to put together your own pre-trip checklist. A properly maintained vessel will ensure your day on the water will be a safe and enjoyable one.

## Filing a Float Plan: Life vs. Death

During the winter/spring months, many cruising families leave port for extended vacations. The weather offshore and along the Florida coast can deteriorate rather quickly with the onset of cold fronts which create high winds blowing contrary to offshore currents and result in dangerous sea conditions. These weather changes also affect coastal boaters who, history has shown, unlike seasoned mariners, find themselves in dangerous situations without having taken the time to file a float plan at their respective marina.

It is highly recommended that all small boat operators take the time and initiative to file a float plan every time they go out in the water. Small boat operators include kayakers, canoeists, sport fishermen, jet skiers, day cruisers, and anyone on a vessel 60' or smaller.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary has developed a one-page float plan that provides them with boaters' essential real-time information that can make the difference between a successful recovery effort and a tragedy.

Law enforcement and Coast Guard will risk their safety to help those in need, and boaters have an obligation to provide all pertinent information should an emergency arise and assistance become necessary.

For more information regarding the float plan, go to [www.floatplancentral.org](http://www.floatplancentral.org).

## Marina Staff Trains to be the Best

Congratulations to Steve Vazquez, Public Facility Manager 4/Dockmaster at Crandon Park Marina, who just received his Certified Marina Manager (CMM) designation from the International Marina Institute (IMI), a subsidiary of the Association of Marina Industries, the only professional association dedicated to certifying marina managers. Other Parks staff who have com-

pleted training and await certification are Kathy Haley, Ken Maxwell, Mary Kate Smith, Sherri Compton, and Chantal Victor.

The rigorous process to be certified requires that staff:

- Accumulate five years of marina management experience with three of these years being the immediate past three years
- Complete the Intermediate and

Advanced Marina Management courses

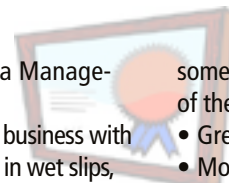
- Manage a marina business with at least 100 boats in wet slips, moorings and/or dry storage
- Be a member of the Association of Marina Industries
- Complete CMM application process
- Undergo review by the CMM Advisory Committee

However, IMI states that when

someone becomes certified, some of the benefits reaped are:

- Greater earning potential
- More job opportunities
- Career advancement and job security
- Job satisfaction and ability
- Networking with colleagues
- Instant recognition

For more information, log on to [www.marinaassociation.org](http://www.marinaassociation.org).



## Hooked on Birds – Not a Good Thing

As you can see from the picture, a hook meant for a fish was snagged on a seagull. Sadly, this occurs all too often because some people are careless and do not dispose of their fishing gear properly.

The Miami-Dade Marine Patrol at Pelican Harbor carefully caught the seagull and took him to the Seabird Station where they tried



to save the little guy the police affectionately named "Hook." Unfortunately, the damage was so extensive Hook did not make it.

Fishing is a fun sport but the tools used can be deadly for sea birds and sea life if not handled properly. Sadly, these animals get tangled on monofilament every day. Birds are particularly prone to getting their wings and legs

so tangled that their circulation is cut off, often resulting in amputation. Hooks left in fish are potential hazards for birds looking for a meal. Cutting the barbs off hooks is helpful and not as destructive to the animals.

Most marinas have recycling bins for monofilament line, so please make sure to use them. When you are enjoying a day of fishing, please be mindful of the sea birds and sea life. Dispose of your lines, hooks and lures properly so no harm comes to animal or human.

## Holiday Happiness at Cinco de Mayo Park Party

Once again, Miami-Dade Parks marina employees and patrons, along with the American Society of Public Administrators and other Parks staff, collected hundreds of toys, canned goods and clothes for the needy families at Cinco de Mayo Park to ensure they enjoyed a great holiday.

This year, even though many people were pinching pennies, everyone pulled together so the children were not left empty-handed this holiday season. To make the event even more special, Park Manager Igna Portilla decided to invite parents to the party. The families sat around a campfire, sang holiday songs and the children proudly read poems they had written. A.D. Barnes Park



staff entertained everyone with a snake show. Staff at Cinco de Mayo wrapped all the gifts and labeled them so each child's would be age- and gender-appropriate.

The children's excitement and happiness were palpable, and at one point they screamed in unison, "Thank you Miami-Dade County Parks Department and Marinas Division!"

Good job, everyone!

## Get the Good News Out!

Okay, so perhaps business is a little slow and you need additional promotion. Or you would like to reach a wider audience and increase visibility for your organization. Or you're just starting out in business and want to get the good news out. Here is an easy and fun way to do so—by advertising in Parklife, the Parks Department's magazine.



A quarterly, cutting edge publication, Parklife is about more than parks. It sheds light on the vital role they play in your life and community. It's about the life you bring to parks through your support and active participation in the department's programs and events as well as your recreation activities in our fields, beaches, pools, golf courses, playgrounds, marinas, and our attractions such as Miami MetroZoo, Deering Estate at Cutler and EcoAdventures.

By becoming a sponsor, your organization will reach a wide spectrum of our community. Currently the 15,000 copies of Parklife printed per issue are distributed to:

- 42 highly trafficked park locations including MetroZoo, Deering Estate at Cutler, Fairchild Tropical Gardens, Crandon Golf Course at Key Biscayne
- Over 40 events including Ribfest, the "Fall In Love" concert at the Deering Estate at Cutler, The Miami International Agriculture & Cattle Show at Tropical Park, The Asian Culture Festival at Fruit & Spice Park, and The Love-In at Greynolds Park
- All 47 Miami-Dade County libraries
- 30,000 employees of Miami-Dade County and 30,000 visitors to the website per month
- Government leaders including the mayor, commissioners, county manager, and Florida state and federal legislators
- 90 federal, state and local park & recreation agencies

Pick up an issue at any county library or park. Or read it online at [www.miamidade.gov/parks](http://www.miamidade.gov/parks). We think you'll like what you see.

For further information on becoming a sponsor, please contact Damarys Isler at (305) 755-7899 or at [islerd@miamidade.gov](mailto:islerd@miamidade.gov).

## Boating Safety Classes Available

Feel like you're due for a refresher on safe boating? This is the perfect time for the seasoned mariner as well as the new boater. Classes abound online and throughout South Florida.

The Cutler Cove Power Squadron offers courses on basic boat handling, seamanship, required Coast Guard equipment, rules of the road, lines and basic knots, and much more. Classes, held at Palmetto Middle School, 7351 SW 128 Street, in Cutler Ridge, are open to boaters and prospective boat owners and their families to include children over 12 years of age. Courses are free but there is a \$30 cost for optional course material.

The Cutler Cove Power Squadron, a non-profit with no ties to governmental or military entities, is one of 450 national squadrons who teach boating safety.

For additional information regarding classes and/or membership opportunities, contact Cliff Root at 305-238-4807 or log on to [www.usps.org/localusps/cutlercove](http://www.usps.org/localusps/cutlercove).



## New Grouper Regulations in Effect

New regulations for gag grouper in the Gulf of Mexico and federal waters and red grouper in Gulf state waters became effective January 1, 2009. Changes for red, gag and black grouper in the Atlantic federal waters off Florida are expected to take effect sometime in 2009. For detailed information on all grouper and other regulation changes, visit <http://myfwc.com>.



Carlos Alvarez  
Mayor



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Miami-Dade County provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate on the basis of disability.

"It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to comply with all of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act."

Call 305-365-3128 or 305-365-6705 (TDD) to request materials in accessible format, a sign language interpreter (seven days notice required) and for information on access for persons with disabilities.

## Miami-Dade County Marinas



**Crandon Park Marina**  
4000 Crandon Boulevard  
Key Biscayne, FL 33149  
305-361-1281



**Pelican Harbor Marina**  
1275 NE 79 Street  
Miami, Florida 33138  
305-754-9330



**Bill Bird Marina  
at Haulover Park**  
10800 Collins Avenue  
Miami Beach, FL 33154  
305-947-3525



**Black Point Marina**  
24775 SW 87 Avenue  
Princeton, Florida 33032  
305-258-4092



**Homestead Bayfront Marina**  
9698 SW 328 Street  
Homestead, FL 33033  
305-230-3033



**Matheson Hammock Marina**  
9610 Old Cutler Road  
Miami, Florida 33156  
305-665-5475

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275 NW 2nd Street  
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